GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1610
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2015
Granting Citizenship to Hindu Immigrants from Bangladesh
Gogoi Shri Gaurav;Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to grant citizenship to Hindu immigrants from Bangladesh and also to persons residing in enclaves on Bangladesh side;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating number of Hindu immigrants from Bangladesh living in various States, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has discussed the matter of granting citizenship to Hindu immigrants from Bangladesh with the said State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of policy guidelines prepared by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) : The immigrants from Bangladesh can obtain Indian citizenship under the provisions of Citizenship Act, 1955 and the rules made thereunder. Persons residing in Indian enclaves on Bangladesh side of the border are already Indian citizens. However, 14,864 persons residing in erstwhile Bangladeshi enclaves on Indian side of the border have been granted Indian Citizenship with effect from 01.08.2015, the date of transfer of enclaves, as per the provisions of section 7 of Citizenship Act, 1955.
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(b) : Religion-wise data is not maintained.

(c) & (d): Union Government has conducted several rounds of meeting with the State Government of West Bengal. A Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs visited State Government of West Bengal from 2nd to 7th November, 2015 in this connection. Indian Citizenship to the 14,864 persons residing in erstwhile Bangladeshi enclaves has been granted after receipt of recommendation of State Government of West Bengal.

(e): Government of India vide its notification dated 7 September, 2015 has granted exemption to persons belonging to minority communities in Bangladesh and Pakistan namely, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parises and Christians, who entered into India on or before 31st December, 2014 from the application of provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the orders made there under in respect of their stay in India without valid documents including passport or other travel document; or with valid documents including passport or other travel document and the validity of any of such documents has expired.

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